

**REMARKS**

The application includes claims 1-8. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-8 are new.

In the Office Action the Examiner states that the Abstract needs to be corrected according to MPEP 608.01(b). The applicants have amended the Abstract to conform to the MPEP.

The Examiner states that claim 1 is objected to as being anticipated by Poddar (US Patent 5,102,413) and by Teitelbaum et al. (US Pub. 2002/0068975).

The applicants have amended claim 1 to require a spacer with expanding spikes (e.g., page 19, lines 3-14) in contrast to Podder, which describes an inflatable bladder (e.g., fig.1, col. 3 lines 23-44) and Teitelbaum, which describes an inflatable balloon (e.g., page 3 paragraph [0064]). The methods of handling spacers with spikes are different than those of other spacers and therefore it would not be obvious to apply the teachings of Poddar and Teitelbaum to a spacer with spikes.

Claims 2-8 have been added to further define the invention. These claims find support in the application, for example:

Claims 2-3 – page 25, lines 16-25.

Claim 4 – page 21, lines 19-22.


Claim 5 – page 22, lines 1-16.

Claim 6 – page 24, lines 20-26.

Claims 7-8 – page 22, lines 24-27.

If the Examiner is unable to agree that the claims are all patentable, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at toll free 1 (877) 428-5468. This number connects directly to our office in Israel. Please note that Israel is 7 hours ahead of Washington and that our work week is Sunday-Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,  
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